



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Early Care & Education Work Group

Minutes – June 30 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Calvary Church/Fireside Room

Members Present: Jenny Adair, Donna Alliston, Eva Carter, Judy Clay, Diana Courson, Dee Cox, Dorethea Davis, Dana Gonzales, David Griffin, Joanna Grymes, Janie Huddleston, Thelma Jasper, Karen Marshall, Vicki Mathews, Martha Reeder, Sandra Reifeiss, Tonya Russell, Terrie Senteney-Baker, Vicki Shelby, Thomas Sheppard, Ratha Turpin, Jodi Veit-Edrington, Cara Walloch

Before the meeting: Participants had been asked to identify one objective under each of the nine goals stated by MCH Bureau under Early Care & Education. As members arrived, each posted their objectives under goals, which were posted around the room.

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions – Co-chairs Vicki Shelby and Sandra Reifeiss welcomed everyone and introduced Janie Huddleston, Deputy Director of DHS. Janie updated the group on recent appointment of Tonya Russell as Director of DCCECE, and encouraged group as they focus on quality issues in early childhood. Tonya Russell shared news of the ABC funding that was recently approved by the legislature. Vicki Shelby then introduced Eva Carter, Region VI State Specialist (NCCIC), the facilitator for the meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Overview of the logic model – Eva Carter

Discussion: Eva Carter gave a basic introduction to logic models, defining terms associated with a logic model. She stated the problem of a typical headache as the premise of a logic model (Problem/Issue: Headache; Activity: Take a pill; Long-term outcome: feel better)

Result: Co-chairs Vicki Shelby and Sandra Reifeiss grouped the nine MCH Goals into three categories and divided participants in three groups according to these categories:

- **Children & Families** – Donna Alliston, Judy Clay, Diana Courson, Dorethea Davis, Vicki Mathews, Cara Walloch
- **Community** – Jenny Adair, Joanna Grymes, Ratha Turpin
- **State Policies** – David Griffin, Thelma Jasper, Karen Marshall, Tonya Russell, Terrie Senteney-Baker, Thomas Sheppard, Jodi Veit-Edrington

Each group named their own facilitator and reporter/recorder. Each group took the objectives that were listed by work group members under their three MCH Goals and brainstormed about ways to prioritize these. All objectives that were posted under each goal are attached in the document entitled, *National MCH Goals/Arkansas Objectives*.

Tasks: It was decided that there needed to be more corporate input, and it was suggested that Geania Dickey contact these additional entities to be involved in planning process:

- Baptist Health
- Cooperative Extension
- Tyson
- Wal-Mart (Walton Foundation)

Agenda Item #2: Share-Back from small groups

Discussion: After lunch, small groups continued to work together, then came back together in the large group to share the results of work.

Results: Children & Families Group - This group reported the following long-term desired outcomes:

1. 100% of early childhood educators will have knowledge of their profession before entering the workforce.
 2. 100% of early educators in Arkansas will demonstrate the ability to implement developmentally appropriate practices.
 3. 100% of Arkansas children will have access to Quality Approved programs.
 4. 100% of early educators will have access to systems that support their ability to provide services to all children
 5. All Arkansas citizens will have knowledge of high quality early experiences (accurate picture of what quality is).
 6. All parents of children under five will have a menu of incentives for accessing quality early education.
 7. Consistent and continual funding is available to support and ensure early education goals.
- (reported by Donna Alliston/Vicki Mathews)

Communities - This group reported the following long-term desired outcomes,:

1. Children are ready for school
2. Community coalitions continue to exist and maintain changes once grant period is over.

the following intermediate outcomes,:

1. Communities have a sound citizenry base, ready to learn and work.
3. Communities understand and support the importance of early education, leading to a safer and healthier community.

and the following short term outcome:

1. Coalitions are formed to address needed changes.
- (reported by Joanna Grymes)

(Agenda Item #2 cont.)

State Policies - This group reported the following long-term desired outcomes,:

1. Total Funding of \$100 million for ABC
2. Implementation of a tiered licensing/ accreditation system

and the following mid-term outcomes:

1. Examine early childhood foundation trust, pursuing corporate investment, helping corporate Arkansas to see the benefits of tax credits; looking at the % that goes back directly to the community
2. Develop the tiered licensing criteria and funding reimbursement system.

and the following short-term outcomes:

1. Tie the beer tax to permanent funding streams and secure additional \$20 million.
2. New legislation to bring corporate Arkansas "on board" with early childhood goals.
3. Gather data on the breakdown of quality programs and from other states regarding tiered licensing/reimbursement.
4. Develop a task force that will identify a possible framework for the tiered system (ABC, providers, DCCECE, etc.)
5. Bring together a work group to address transition issues (public school {CSSO/Dept. Ed. Project}, special ed., HS, private providers).

Additional comments from this group advised all to consider regional differences across Arkansas.

.... (reported by Jody Veit-Edrington)

Tasks: Deborah Gangluff will construct logic model compiling information gathered from each group. The full list of outcomes can be seen also in the attached document, *Early Care & Education Work Group: Projected Outcomes*.

Agenda Item #3: Next Steps

Discussion: Martha Reeder informed the group concerning the upcoming joint meeting of all five work groups on August 31. The meeting will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the new youth space at Calvary Baptist Church. The meeting will be facilitated by Christopher Botsko from HRSA. Mr. Botsko will be working from the five logic models that are currently being developed by the work groups.

Results: The last work group meeting where logic model work will occur (before the joint meeting) will be on July 19. After Mr. Botsko has received notes and logic models from all five work groups, he will advise a structure for the August 31 meeting.

Tasks: Work Group members will be notified by email when minutes, logic model and other notes are available on the web link (<http://www.state.ar.us/childcare/earlycare&edworkgroup.html>). Members are encouraged to review the material and contact co-chairs Sandra Reifeiss and/or Vicki Shelby if there are any corrections/additions, or requests for additional information.